



HOWARD COUNTY TOURISM & PROMOTION

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Howard County's Twelve Days of Winter Weekend Getaways

A Dozen wonderful ways to enjoy a stress-free holiday season with fine food, art, ol' fashioned shoppes for a Dickens of a good time!

ELLICOTT CITY, MD (October 20, 2009) Howard County Tourism & Promotion welcomes winter with its newest promotion *Howard County's 12 Days of Winter Weekend Getaways*. With a chill in the air and frost on your windshield, it's time to plan for a winter weekend getaway in nearby Howard County, just 15 miles from Baltimore or 30 miles from Washington DC. These sure-to-please events will help you beat the winter and beltway blues and enjoy a stress-free holiday season with food, art, ol' fashioned shoppes for a Dickens of a good time! Check-out our website www.VisitHowardCounty.com and check-in to posh hotels, boutique B&Bs and family and pet-friendly inns for your weekend getaway!

1) November 10, 2009

Three Keys to Mastering Stress

Gain a greater understanding of your stress. Learn to take control; build support systems; and incorporate physical activity, time management, and relaxation techniques into your life. Free. HCGH Wellness Center's new location at the Medical Pavilion; 7-9 p.m. For information or to register, call 410-740-7601, or register online at www.hcgh.org

2) November 12, 2009 and December 10, 2009

The Spirits of Ellicott City

Join us on the second Thursday of each month at 8pm for a tasteful tour of town ghosts and their favorite haunts. Visit at up to 4 of Ellicott City's most haunted pubs, taverns and bistros. At each stop you will have the option of purchasing "spirits." Your final stop, The Wine Bin, offers 4 one ounce samples of wine at no cost. Tours last 2 hours. 21 and over only. \$20 per person, drinks and gratuities additional. Reservations required, 410-313-1900. www.VisitHowardCounty.com

3) November 21, 2009

Candlelight Concerts 37th Chamber Music Series

8:00 PM at the Smith Theatre, Concertante (Sextet) "...white hot, so intensely felt and so

superbly realized technically..." – BBC Music Magazine. Program: Novacek: Three Rags for String Sextet. Schoenberg: Verklärte Nacht. Brahms: G Major Sextet, Op. 36. 410-997-2324. www.candlelightconcerts.org

4) November 23, 2009 – January 3, 2010

Symphony of Lights

A spectacular display of more than 70 larger-than-life, animated and stationary light creations – is a "must-see" holiday tradition according to *The Washington Post* for the region. \$; Open 7 days a week, including holidays: 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Driving through the display does not require a reservation. 410-740-7840

www.hcqh.org

5) November 27 - November 29, 2009

Holiday Festival of Trains Opening Weekend

Friday through Sunday, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. ,Special guest: Victorian Santa Claus
Holiday celebration of toy trains and model railroading including an O-gauge layout in the car house, the Museum's permanent HO-gauge layout in the freight house, an N-gauge layout, and a miniature Thomas the Tank Engine! See what Santa wore in the days of yore! Saturday, November 28th, see how he looked in 1848. Friday and Sunday, November 27th and 29th, see how he looked in 1862. Santa will be on hand to chat with our visitors and will be handing out special candy canes. B & O Railroad Museum – Ellicott City Station. 410-465-1945; www.ecborail.org

6) November 29, 2009

Holiday Caroling Dinner at the Elkridge Furnace Inn

Start your holiday season with a fabulous seated serve dinner and live entertainment with Joyous Voices, an acapella group that performs in historic Colonial dress. They will serenade the diners during the course of the event with holiday carols. All soft beverages are included and bar services will be available. \$45 per person plus tax and gratuity. Two Shows: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm or 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Reservations Required www.ElkridgeFurnaceInn.com

7) December 1-20, 2009

A Dickens of a Carol at Belmont Manor

Patrons are transported back to 1843 as they enter the beautiful Belmont Manor House and become "guests" of Charles Dickens himself! Enjoy a candlelight dinner by a roaring fire, while hearing Dickens' words brought to life. Reservations: www.repstage.org or 410-772-4900.

8) December 12, 2009

Greccio Living Nativity

Come join the Franciscan Friars of the Shrine of St. Anthony and the members of the St. Louis Parish Catholic Youth Ministry as we commemorate the Birth of Jesus in the manner of St. Francis of Assisi in the little town of Greccio, Italy. Our service of prayers, Christmas carols, and a living nativity scene will take place outside in the Shrine courtyard at 7:30 pm. both Saturday and Sunday night. Following the living nativity, everyone is invited to enjoy light refreshments in the Papal Dining Room and see the Shrine decorated for Christmas. Free, All are welcome. 7:30pm.
www.shrineofstanthony.com

9) December 4th, 2009

Historic Ellicott City Midnight Madness

Start the holiday season off with late night shopping in some of the best Mom & Pop boutiques and antique shoppes in Maryland! Customers will enjoy extended hours of business and entertainment during this annual holiday event. There are plenty of stores, restaurants and activities to amuse all age groups. 410-313-1900 www.ellicottcity.net

10) December 5, 2009

Holiday Mart

Join us for the 37th year of this favorite annual Howard County event! You'll find seasonal gifts and merchandise created by 130 juried artisans. We will have door prizes and a children's craft corner. Discerning shoppers know this is the place to find unique handcrafted items and home decor. You're sure to find something for everyone on your list and don't forget yourself! For more information call Heather Sites at 410-313-4622. All ages; Glenwood Community Center / \$4 per person. Visit www.howardcountymd.gov/rap for more information and receive a 50% off admission coupon & directions to the event. New Location: Glenwood Community Center

11) December 5, 2009

Natural Holiday Sale & Nature Crafts

The Howard County Conservancy will host its annual holiday sale with unique local hand crafted items, nature crafts and decorations demonstrations. Children and adults can make whimsical critters from cones, pods and seed heads. 10am - 4pm. The Howard County Conservancy. 410-465-8877. www.hcconservancy.org

12) January 1, 2010

My Way – A Musical Tribute to Frank Sinatra

Offered selected dates through January 1st, 2010 at Toby's Dinner Theatre Columbia. Great songs combined with a witty and charming dialogue; \$; 410-730-8311; www.tobysdinnertheatre.com

TOURISM...Having FUN is Serious Business!

Howard County Tourism & Promotion, Inc., a non-profit, membership-based organization is recognized and funded in part by Howard County Government and the Maryland Office of Tourism Development as the official Destination Marketing Organization for Howard County, Maryland. Howard County Tourism & Promotion's mission is to increase, develop and promote tourism in Howard County by featuring the county's unique sites, services, products and people by creating promotions like *Howard County's 12 Days of Winter Weekend Getaways!* For more information call 410-313-1900 or online at www.VisitHowardCounty.com.

Tourism ...stats & facts

10,000 employed in County's Tourism industry
\$742M in visitor expenditures (transportation, lodging, dining, shopping, entertainment)
700,000 visitor stays (hotels, motels, B&Bs, educational & retreat centers, campgrounds)
20,000 visitors in Welcome Center (from 39 states, 18 countries, 3 territories)
\$17M in tax receipts reinvested to maintain County's citizens' quality of life

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